

# NEWS from

## The Savannah River Site

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For immediate release

### EARLIEST SITE AREA BEING DEMOLISHED

AIKEN, S.C., Jan. 7 – An 8,000-square-foot building was recently demolished as part of a Savannah River Site initiative to raze the TNX area, which was SRS's first functioning area in the 1950s.

TNX was a research and development area that was built near the Savannah River in 1950. As SRS equipment was brought in by barge on the river, it was inspected, tested and sent on to other site areas for installation.

TNX was named in the early days of the Cold War, in an age of secrecy. Its name is not significant for any of its operations; it stands for "trinitroxylyene," a chemical used at other Du Pont facilities. Du Pont built SRS and operated it until 1989.

Nine buildings – totally 44,000 square feet – have already been demolished, with 14 to go. The most recent one, 675-T, was used as a demonstration facility for Defense Waste Processing Facility melters. None of the buildings that have been demolished so far contain contamination.

Demolishing 675-T began Nov. 4 and was finished Dec. 19. All of the TNX buildings and facilities are scheduled to be razed by October of 2004.

To demolish a building, SRS workers go through a multi-step process, explains David Bokesch, project manager for TNX demolition. First, all building services and utilities are disconnected, lines are drained, and tanks emptied and flushed. "We don't want any leftover material or hazards in the facilities," says Bokesch. Everything possible is removed for salvage, recycling or reuse to minimize waste.

“Several pumps, tanks and electrical equipment has been removed from the facilities for reuse in other site facilities,” Bokesch explains. “Other site organizations have been able to save a lot of money and time by reusing equipment.”

Then, structural engineers determine the best, safest way to bring the building down. “Our biggest concern is personnel safety,” Bokesch says. “We don’t want a building to fall before we’re ready.”

SRS has demolished individual buildings before, but TNX is the first complete area to be demolished. It’s the beginning of a new focus for SRS – skyline changes, where buildings that are no longer needed to support site missions are being razed. BWXT Savannah River Company is responsible for safe and cost effective project management of facility disposition at SRS.

SRS is owned by the Department Of Energy and operated by a team of companies led by WSRC.

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